

# NEWS RELEASE

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## Office of Commissioner Brandon Presley MISSISSIPPI PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION NORTHERN DISTRICT

### **Presley Applauds Arrest of IRS Scam Kingpin in India**

Jackson, Mississippi (April 18, 2017)- Public Service Commissioner Brandon Presley applauded the recent arrest of Sagar Thakkar, also known as “Shaggy”, in Mubai. Thakkar has been identified as the architect of a scheme to scam Americans out of over \$15 million, between 2013 and 2015, posing as the Internal Revenue Service. Thakkar is accused of extortion, cheating, impersonation, as well as violating India’s communications and tech laws.

These calls would demand for payments for non-existent debts and threaten jail time if they were not paid. Presley said his office fielded hundreds of calls from Mississippians who were contacted as a part of Thakkar's scam. PSC investigators cooperated with the U.S. Department of Treasury and the Federal Trade Commission to provide investigative information to aid in the pursuit of the perpetrators of the scam.

"I'm proud to see the main player in this scam finally in handcuffs and being prosecuted. Aside from being annoying, the IRS scam took hard earned money from the working people of Mississippi. I'm proud our PSC staff could aid in this investigation." Commissioner Presley said.

For more information or to add your number to the Do Not Call list call 1-800-637-7722 or visit <https://www.psc.state.ms.us/nocall/nocall.html>.